## Sport for Protection Toolkit

A Brief Guide for Implementing Partners


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## Foreword


#### Abstract

"The practice of sport is a human right. Every human being must have the possibility of practicing sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic Spirit, which requires mutual understanding and with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play." [Olympic Charter principle 4]

It is easy to take 'belonging' for granted. We often assume that everyone has a place to call home, feel safe and welcomed, be respected and appreciated. For young people uprooted by conflict, persecution, or disaster, however, that sense of belonging may be replaced by feelings of disconnectedness and isolation.

The UNHCR Global Trends report for 2019 indicates 79.5 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes, nearly double the number from 2010'. Thirty to thirty-four million of those who are displaced are children under the age of 18. (UNHCR, 2019).


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Sport can help restore young people's sense of belonging in displacement settings by developing their ties within a community, improving and enhancing opportunities for participation, and supporting a positive state of being that enables young people to thrive.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has supported refugees through sport since 1994 in partnership with UNHCR. In 2016, the first-ever IOC Refugee Olympic Team competed in Rio de Janeiro, and Olympic Solidarity continues to support more than 50 refugee athletes with athlete scholarships globally.

The Olympic Refuge Foundation (ORF) is the next chapter. Founded by the IOC, we are an independent nonprofit registered in Switzerland, committed to leveraging sport to protect and support young people affected by displacement (YPAD) worldwide. We believe in a society where everyone belongs, through sport.

This brief guide for Implementing Partners has been developed by the Olympic Refuge Foundation through support from the International Olympic Committee. It is based on the longer Sport for Protection Toolkit developed by UNHCR, Terre des hommes, and the International Olympic Committee.

## "Sport can help

 restore young people's sense of belonging in displacement settings by developing theirties within a community..."


## COVID Considerations

As we write this guide, the world is wrestling with the COVID-19 pandemic. Public health measures, including lockdowns and mask mandates, have altered the implementation of Sport for Protection programmes.

During infectious disease outbreaks such as COVID-19, it is important to prioritise the physical health of participants, coaches, facilitators, families, and communities. Sport for Protection programmes should ALWAYS follow the specific health guidance for your country and region. The following resources will help you adapt your programming to contexts affected by COVID-19 and other infectious diseases:


Picture: Unsplash

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> The Implications of COVID-19 for Community Sport and Physical Activity
> COVID-19: How is the sport and development community responding to the coronavirus pandemic?
> Protecting and mobilizing youth in COVID-19 responses
> - IASC Guidance on Basic Psychosocial Skills: A Guide for COVID-19 Responders

NOTE: This short guide provides an overview of the principles and practises of 'Sport for Protection'. It is intended to be used as an introduction to Sport for Protection programming or as a reminder of the key points in the "Sport for Protection Toolkit" (the toolkit). It is NOT to be used in place of the toolkit. All implementing partners should read the entire "Sport for Protection Toolkit" before undertaking a Sport for Protection programme.


## The Warm-Up: Welcome to the Toolkit




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Meet John and Sara. John runs a child protection programme. Sara is a coach at a youth sports club. They both work with young people aged 10-24 who have been forcibly displaced. Many of the young people are girls; marginalised individuals; or survivors of violence, neglect, abuse or exploitation.

Sara and John care deeply for these young people and are always looking for ways to better support their overall safety and well-being. Recently they attended a workshop where they were introduced to Sport for Protection, an approach that combines evidence-based practises from three different sectors: child protection, youth empowerment, and sport for development and peace.

Keep reading as Sara and John help each other understand the skills they need to run safe, effective Sport for Protection programmes.


The 'Sport for Protection' approach outlined in this Guide features evidence-based practices from three different sectors.

## XX The Method of Scoring: The Benefits of 'Sport for Protection'


"Wow, John! That orientation on Sport for Protection has given me a lot to think about! I feel really confident in supporting young people's athletic skills, but I have more to learn about strengthening young people's emotional safety and well-being."
"I know what you mean! I have lots of experience protecting children from harm and supporting their emotional well-being, but I have a lot of questions about using sport in my programme."
"Sounds like we could help each other. You can teach me a little more about protecting young people, and I can teach you about the benefits of sport. For example, I know when I'm winning a game. I'm still not sure how I know I'm winning in Sport for Protection."

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"That's a great idea, Sara! We just 'score' a little differently in Sport for Protection. Instead of trying to score points, we support three 'protection outcomes' for young people. These are social inclusion, social cohesion, and psychosocial well-being."

"Of course, we can only achieve these protection outcomes if the young people in our programmes are safe as they interact with our staff and activities. We call this 'safeguarding'. All Sport for Protection programmes must have safeguarding policies that programme staff, volunteers and partners must understand, sign and follow."

"Wow, John! That orientation on Sport for Protection has given me a lot to think about! I feel really confident in supporting young people's athletic skills, but I have more to learn about strengthening young people's emotional safety and well-being."

"I know what you mean! I have lots of experience protecting children from harm and supporting their emotional well-being, but I have a lot of questions about using sport in my programme."

- Support the people and influences that keep young people


## PREVENT

 safe (protective factors).- Reduce young people's exposure to people and influences that can cause them harm (risk factors).

RESPOND . Reduce the impact of harm from exposure to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

REMEDY - Assist young people to fulfil their rights and repair (remedy) any harm they have experienced.

"I know how to prevent, respond to, and remedy sport-related harm to young people. We conduct activities in safe locations. We train our staff in first aid and give them basic medical supplies. If someone does get hurt, we inform the parents and review the incident to see if it can be prevented in the future."
"It seems that Sport for Protection uses the same steps to support young people's safety and well-being that I use to train young people. We have a clear process that young people and staff can use to address any harmful actions by staff, and we connect young people with outside experts if they experience abuse, violence or exploitation."

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## Checklist for Safeguarding Young People

Involve young people in developing safeguarding policies And procedures using adolescent-/youth-friendly language.$\square$ Identify the risks to young people, communities, staff, and the organisation.
$\square$ Develop your policy before your organisation receives a report of abuse.
$\square$ Develop procedures for responding to safeguarding concerns.
$\square$ Respond promptly to all reports of inappropriate behaviour toward young people.
$\square$ Communicate respectfully with survivors and the wider community.
$\square$ Train and hold everyone accountable for maintaining a safe environment.
$\square$ Work with partners to safeguard young people.
$\square$ Monitor and evaluate patterns of risk, safeguarding

"Every sport is played on a set space, whether it is a field, a pitch or a mat. The boundaries help the players, coaches and spectators know where they should and shouldn't go. The same is true of 'Sport for Protection'."
"Right! Instead of marking the boundaries with paint or chalk, we mark them with four foundational approaches."

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"The Olympic Charter includes the practice of sport as a human right. It seems to me that the Human Rights-based Approach is similar to 'fair play'. The rules apply to all players equally, regardless of their age, gender, religion, level of ability, or any other characteristic."
"That's a great way to look at it! There are also international Conventions that have identified young people's rights, including life, health, dignity, play, and a say over decisions that impact their lives. The checklist below has ideas for strengthening the rights of all young people."

"The Socio-ecological Approach says that young people's ability to succeed depends upon a combination of individual characteristics, family support (or lack thereof), community values, and public policies."

"I use this checklist to help me work with all the stakeholders who can help provide young people with a supportive, nurturing environment."

## Checklist for Cooperating with All Levels of Society


$\square$ Identify risks and protective factors in assessments.
$\square$ Reduce the risks and strengthen the protective factors identified in the assessment.
$\square$ Design sports programmes with concurrent life skills-building activities.
$\square$ Engage caregivers, community members, leaders, and young people in programme design, development, implementation, and evaluation.
$\square$ Encourage peer-to-peer relationship building.


Examine the physical environment for safety and inclusivity.
Include child protection and human rights representatives when training staff/coaches.
$\square$ Advocate for rights-based policies through sport.


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"The Protection Systems Strengthening Approach views the protection of young people as a team sport. Government agencies, justice systems, religious leaders, schools, and youth organisations all play on the team."

"The checklist below can help you identify protection teammates who need support and find ways to strengthen them or recognise teammates who are strong and can strengthen you."

"I see how sport can work with these areas, but I am not sure about this 'Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Approach'. Sport is as much mental as it is physical...but l'm not a counsellor! How can we be expected to take care of young people's 'emotional well-being'?"
"I understand. I'm not a counsellor either. When young people are in serious distress, they should always be referred to specialised services. However, we can deliver Sport for Protection programming that strengthens young people's sense of well-being through physical exercise, supportive teammates, encouraging coaches, and confidence in their developing skills. The following checklist provides some key tips."

"We can summarise the way these four approaches work together in one sentence."


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## 䓵 <br> The Game Plan: The Practical Steps for Sport for Protection Programming


"Okay, John, that's enough theory! I want to talk about the game plan and the steps for developing an effective, safe Sport for Protection programme."
"Well, Sport for Protection programming follows the steps of the project management cycle. The first step is to conduct a situation analysis to identify and understand the context, problems, and causes and consequences of those problems. Just remember, you always want to have appropriate safeguards in place before you begin this process."

## The Sport for Protection Programme Cycle

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| DEFINE WHAT WE <br> NEED TO KNOW | ANALYSE AND <br> REDUCE RISK | CONDUCT A SITUATION ANALYSIS / <br> BASELINE ASSESSMENT |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| What information <br> is important? | What are the risks <br> to young people, <br> communities, <br> staff, and the | What is the situation <br> organisation? | before the programme <br> begins? |
| What is the best <br> way to get the <br> information? | Who are the <br> stakeholders and what <br> are their needs? |  |  |

"So situation analysis is like assessing your team at the beginning of the season. You want to know the players, coaches, and their strengths and weaknesses to effectively plan your training strategy."

## Strategic Planning


"That's right! Then we conduct strategic and operational planning.
We use the information from the analysis to decide:

- What we want to do;
- How we will do it, and
- When we want to do it.

Some organisations may not be immediately ready to implement Sport for Protection programming if they lack capacity, partners, or training. In that case, they can develop a capacity-building plan to prepare them for future Sport for Protection activities."

"This reminds me of the planning that goes into winning a sports championship. The individual athletes, coaches, sponsors, and fans support each other all season long to develop the skills, resources, and determination to win individual games. A team may not be a championship

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Elements of a Sport for Protection Logframe

"That is so true. If the organisation can start right away, they will set Sport for Protection objectives that reflect the:

- Local context;
- Stage of emergency; and
- Protection issues that have been prioritised during situation analysis. Wherever possible, objectives should be developed with young people and community members.

Those objectives are used to develop a logical framework, a summary of our Sport for Protection programme (see graphic). Based on the logical framework, we then create a work plan that provides a clear overview and timeframe for the entire programme. It includes the types of activities, who will be in charge of the activities, and how long the activities will take."

"Hey, it looks like we've reached the implementation stage! THIS is what I've been waiting for! I can't wait to put these plans into action!"
"Actually, implementation starts with a little more planning. This planning is for each individual session, though, just like a coach plans for individual practices."

"To be honest, planning the activities is where I run into problems, Sara. I don't know how to decide what sport activities to use to support protection outcomes."

"I can help you with that! Basic types of sport activities include:

- Warm-up and cool-down exercises,
- Adapted international sport games,
- Local sport and traditional games,
- Group movement or cooperative games,
- Simple physical activities or exercises, and
- Relaxation activities."
"All Sport for Protection activities should be modified to reflect your specific context and the issues facing communities and young people. That includes contexts that may be experiencing crises such as infectious disease outbreaks or other public health concerns.

Sport activities can be adapted so that everyone can participate. You may just need to change the equipment you use, playing environment, expected skill level, or the rules you follow.

Based on what you have taught me, it sounds like we can include protection messages, reflection time and discussion into each activity."
"Absolutely! You may find this checklist helpful when trying to select activities that support young people's sense of connectedness, inclusion and wellness."


## Checklist for Selecting Sport and Recreational Activities

Appropriateness to the context
$\square$ Engage young people and community members in identifying cultural issues that may affect implementation (e.g. gender roles, high-risk groups, education levels, etc.)
$\square$ Evaluate the unique value of each sport for different groups of young people and the potential for each sport to create conflict.
$\square$ Consider using adventure and action sports and cultural/ indigenous sports, games, and artistic practices in 'Sport for Protection' programmes.

Inclusivity/accessibility
$\square$ Select sports that allow everyone to participate and require little or no equipment.
$\square$ Assess the barriers to sport participation for different participants and make changes so that the sport or space is more accessible.

Potential for supporting young people's protection
$\square$ Assess the local context for the risks and protective factors that affect young people.
$\square$ Assess and adapt the sport's ability to support young people's connectedness, inclusion and wellness.
$\square$ Consider including creative forms of expression (e.g. art, drama, music, dance) to support connectedness, inclusion and wellness.
$\square$ Provide opportunities for young people to engage in sport for pure enjoyment (without additional discussion or protection goals).
$\square$ Train and equip volunteers (including older youth) to lead community sport activities.
$\square$ Consider mental health concerns when conducting all 'sport activities'.
"Thanks for those recommendations! That is so helpful!"
"As I review the topics we've discussed so far, I can't help thinking about my coaches. Most of them do a great job planning sessions for sport
 outcomes like increased physical strength, endurance and other sportspecific skills. Some of them naturally support protection outcomes as well, but others, honestly, do not. What can I do about that?"
"Sport for Protection programmes rely on coaches and facilitators who
 are also equipped to model social skills and enhance young people's emotional and mental development. Additionally, coaches and facilitators can also increase the acceptance and sustainability of programmes, particularly when they are recruited from the local community." ${ }^{5}$

"What about volunteers? One time we had a parent who volunteered as a coach. We were doing a routine drill when he suddenly reacted frighteningly. He later told us that the drill had reminded him of an activity

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The Game Plan a local militia used to perform in his town. How do I address that sort of situation?"
"It is true that Sport for Protection activities can sometimes trigger
 unexpected reactions in young people and local and international staff. We must prepare Sport for Protection coaches and facilitators to handle that kind of situation. As part of the safeguarding process, referral pathways should already be in place so everyone is clear on the levels of support available should more support be needed."

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Sport for The "Sport for Protection Toolkit" has specific Protection Toolkit
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The "Sport for Protection Toolkit" has specific guidance on how to support young people (or another coach or facilitator) who are in crisis or who disclose a case of abuse.
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"There really are a lot of different elements to keep track of in Sport for Protection programming."

"Absolutely. This is why monitoring is such an important part of Sport for Protection programming. We conduct ongoing data collection and analysis to ensure our activities meet our objectives and are responsive to what is happening around us. If they aren't, monitoring helps us determine what adjustments need to be made.

Monitoring should be a key consideration during the initial planning stages to ensure that we are collecting information that answers the questions we want to ask. We have to develop and implement processes and systems to capture and analyse information that we can use to regularly improve the programme."

"That is an important part of our sport programmes, too. We monitor their general health, motivation, and of course, their injuries to make sure we aren't pushing the players too hard. We also review their game performance to identify the technical skills that need more practice."

"In Sport for Protection, though, it is not just coaches who collect and analyse data. Young people and other stakeholders can also be involved in all aspects of monitoring."
"I don't think I have ever included my players in monitoring. I informally question them from time to time, but never as a regular part of the programme. I suspect they may have some very different perspectives on what is or is not working."


## Evaluation and Learning

"They usually do! In fact, young people's unique perspectives increase our ability to evaluate and learn from ongoing or completed Sport for Protection programming. Evaluation can help us to:

- Assess if we've achieved what we have set out to do;
- Determine how and why we saw the results as we did, and
- Understand if and how our activities contributed to those results.

Before conducting an evaluation, we must carefully consider:

- The purpose of the evaluation and how the findings will be used;
- The approach (or methodology) to ensure the quality of the findings, and
- The timing, so data is available to inform key decisions.

Throughout, as well as at the end of the Sport for Protection programme,

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The Game Plan we use the information from our monitoring activities, evaluations, research, participants, project team, and other stakeholders to support learning."


"I'm quite relieved to see that our sport programme already practises many of the steps described above. Are there any other things I need to know to align our current practices to Sport for Protection?"
"Actually, this might be a good time to talk about the cross-cutting principles that should be integrated into every step of Sport for Protection programming: participation, partnerships, sustainability, and advocacy.

The participation of young people means supporting their engagement in every part of the project management cycle, from designing and implementing programmes to assessing the success of the programme, to identifying areas for improvement. In Sport for Protection programmes, young people should never just be players or beneficiaries; they should be central to the whole process."

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Involve young people, families and community members in every step of the project management cycle, from assessment to design to evaluation.
$\square$ Collaborate with young people who have engaged in other programmes or sport activities.
$\square$ Ensure the physical space and timing of activities meet the needs of participating adolescents and youth (e.g. avoid scheduling conflicts with school, work, and family responsibilities; ensure access for young people with disabilities).
$\square$ Partner with other organisations to meet young people's basic rights.
$\square$ Use staff from the displaced and host communities wherever possible.
$\square \quad$ Train staff and coaches (including local staff) in cross-cultural communication, safeguarding, and referrals for additional services.
Identify and engage marginalised groups of young people.
$\square$ Build upon existing community engagement to identify young people who may want to be involved.

"Before, we talked about the Socio-ecological Approach. I think the partnership principle is similar. I should find partners that represent youth, families, community leaders, social groups...perhaps even government actors."
"Exactly! Just make sure your partners share your vision and have skills and resources in areas that can support or develop your programme capacity."

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Recognise the full range of actors and their different views of protection risks.


Involve caregivers, community members, and leaders, including young people, in all aspects of programme design, development, implementation, and evaluation.Invite child protection and human rights representatives to train staff/coaches.
$\square$ Ensure 'Sport for Protection' programmes connect with and strengthen protection systems at all levels (e.g. government actors, local leaders, NGOs, etc.).
$\square$ Work with partners to identify gaps in their organisations and connect with others who can fill those gaps before engaging in 'Sport for Protection' programming.
Establish partnerships with regional, national and local actors who can support 'Sport for Protection' with funding, personnel, training and community engagement.

"I think I understand the sustainability piece as well. More and more of my time is spent looking for financial support from sponsors or donors for salaries, equipment and activity space."
"Financial sustainability is an important issue, but it isn't the only one. We also want communities and other stakeholders to take long-term ownership of Sport for Protection programmes. The ultimate goal is to meet current needs by building up communities' and individuals' abilities to meet their future needs.

Here are some ideas for sustaining Sport for Protection programmes and outcomes."


Planning and Implementation
$\square$ Involve displaced young people, their families, and communities in all stages of programme assessment, design, and planning.
$\square$ Adapt programmes to specific contextual issues.
$\square$ Incorporate participatory activities, including sport, into assessment and planning.
$\square$ Develop strategic relationships with families, community leaders, local authorities, the private sector, and various levels of government.
$\square$ Ensure programme objectives reflect local needs.
$\square$ Plan an exit strategy from the beginning or as soon as possible.

## Financial Sustainability

$\square$ Create opportunities for young people to share their priorities, especially when planning programmes.
$\square$ Advocate for the priorities of young people with governments, international donors and high-level partners.

Support young people to advocate for their own priorities with other stakeholders.
$\square$ Consider initiating income-generating activities, even if on a small scale.

## Volunteerism

$\square$ Engage refugees or other displaced people, including older youth, as 'community coaches' or 'assistant coaches'.

- Include opportunities for volunteers to develop sport-related and psychosocial skills.
$\square$ Provide training certificates, cards identifying individuals as

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"Over the last few decades, athletes have been asked to participate in different campaigns like fair play. Are there other advocacy issues that Sport for Protection athletes, coaches and facilitators can advance?"
"Yes, indeed! Sometimes social norms or government policies limit young people's access to sport or negatively impact Sport for Protection programmes' effectiveness. We need to convince decision-makers of sport's value in supporting young people and the importance of changing policies or practices that hinder that support.

Fortunately, we don't need to do it alone. Young athletes themselves can be very powerful advocates! Young people who are aware of their rights are often eager-and effective-educators of their peers, families, communities, and social groups. These tools offer great ideas for ways to conduct Sport for Protection advocacy."

## Examples of Advocacy Tools



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## Sport for Development: Potential Value and Next Steps ${ }^{6}$

An Advocacy Toolkit: The Education We Want (These tools can be adapted for 'Sport for Protection'.) ${ }^{7}$


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Sport for Development and Peace Youth Advocacy Toolkit ${ }^{8}$
Sport for Development and Peace and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
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Enhancing the Contribution of Sport to the Sustainable Development Goals ${ }^{10}$
To Protect Others, Rhobi Used Something Even More Powerful Than Tradition: Her Voice

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"Thanks so much, John! Now that I better understand the Sport for
 Protection process, I feel much more prepared to work with young people, community members, and other partners to make sure our programmes deliver long-term results!"
"Thank you, Sara! I really enjoy seeing how sport enhances our participants' overall protection! Although I am not a coach, I have a better awareness of the ways I can use sport, and I know I can count on you for the support!"


## Acknowledgements

Authors: Kristen M. Castrataro and Sara Lim Bertrand of the Proteknôn Foundation for Innovation and Learning with support from Patrice Cholley of the International Olympic Committee

Reviewers: Melinda Poustie and Laurene Graziani of the Proteknôn Foundation for Innovation and Learning

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The Warm-up
Graphic designer: Adéle Prins, PR/NS, www.prinsdesign.co.za
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Method of Scoring

Suggested citation: Olympic Refuge Foundation (2021). Sport for Protection Toolkit: A Brief Guide for Implementing Partners.

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